



Office of the
Healthcare
Advocate

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

**Testimony of Victoria Veltri
State Healthcare Advocate
Before the Public Health Committee
In support of HB 5727
February 20, 2013**

Good afternoon, Representative Johnson, Senator Gerratana, Senator Welch, Representative Srinivasan, and members of the Public Health Committee. For the record, I am Vicki Veltri, State Healthcare Advocate with the Office Healthcare Advocate ("OHA"). OHA is an independent state agency with a three-fold mission: assuring managed care consumers have access to medically necessary healthcare; educating consumers about their rights and responsibilities under health insurance plans; and, informing you of problems consumers are facing in accessing care and proposing solutions to those problems.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 5727. This proposed legislation represents an important step in ensuring that children are treated appropriately. By reducing the required timeframe for parental notification from five days to one, these children can receive the emotional support of their families, as appropriate, in a more timely manner. It is important to be cognizant of the additional privacy protections available to children 16 years and older, whereby they must specifically authorize the release of any protected health information, which an admission would be considered. However, involving parents in the treatment at an early stage may offer additional important information that can aid in developing a comprehensive treatment plan, which may enhance these children's outcomes. Accordingly, I support the principles promoted by HB 5727.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to deliver OHA's testimony today. If you have any questions concerning my testimony, please feel free to contact me at victoria.veltri@ct.gov.